

Message

From: Berg, Elizabeth [Berg.Elizabeth@epa.gov]
Sent: 10/28/2016 11:26:35 PM
To: Rodriguez, Roberto [Rodriguez.Roberto@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Hopi water questions

I agree. If you have not forwarded to Ivan, I think you should and ask for their input

From: Rodriguez, Roberto
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2016 3:39 PM
To: Berg, Elizabeth <Berg.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Hopi water questions

FYI, David Albright just called and said Margot got a call over a week ago regarding Hopi. David just sent me some draft responses for questions from the reporter. See my very quick comments below. I think Ivan or someone from ORC should review since the villages are on our radar.

Roberto Rodriguez, Manager
SDWA/FIFRA Enforcement Office
Enforcement Division, EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (ENF-3-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-972-3302

From: Rodriguez, Roberto
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2016 3:36 PM
To: Albright, David <Albright.David@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Hopi water questions

From a programmatic standpoint, this looks fine. I think we should add a blurb or two about how the 4 villages are currently out of compliance w/the arsenic standard and we are investigating. Since this is the case, we should be transparent. Let me ask Ivan to take a look also, unless ORC already commented/reviewed? Generally, on this end, we're trying to be more transparent on the investigation/enforcement work we're doing on pesticides and DW.

Roberto Rodriguez, Manager
SDWA/FIFRA Enforcement Office
Enforcement Division, EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (ENF-3-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-972-3302

From: Albright, David
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2016 3:30 PM
To: Rodriguez, Roberto <Rodriguez.Roberto@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Hopi water questions

Here are the questions and proposed responses.
Thanks,
David

1. Can someone spell out the Safe Drinking Water Act's arsenic standards? And how we came to the current level or standard we have today?

The federal arsenic Maximum Contaminant Level is 0.010 mg/L, which was established in 2001. EPA based this on the substantial scientific literature regarding adverse health effects from arsenic ingestion, which include several types of cancer, circulatory and neurological problems, and endocrine effects, as well as the feasibility of possible treatment technologies that can remove arsenic from water.

2. What is the EPA's role in helping the Hopi have safe drinking water?

USEPA has direct regulatory oversight of public water systems on the Hopi Indian Reservation. In this role, EPA assesses compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Standards by the public water systems, identifies any violations that occur, and takes steps to bring the water systems back into compliance when there are violations. EPA's efforts to help the Hopi public water systems comply with federal standards and supply safe drinking water to Hopi residents includes technical and compliance assistance and water infrastructure funding.

3. Who is the agency's partner at the tribe? Or who's responsible for doing the sampling and reporting of arsenic levels?

USEPA works directly with water system personnel (e.g., water operators, Facility Managers) to ensure compliance of a Hopi public water system with the drinking water rules and regulations. However, USEPA also keeps the Hopi Tribal government informed of its activities with the individual public water systems.

The certified water operators of each public water system are responsible for the sampling of all chemical and biological constituents listed in the drinking water rules and regulations; this includes arsenic. The water systems are responsible for reporting the results from their sampling activities to USEPA.

4. What is the strategy for helping Hopi comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act at more than just the cultural center?

The Hopi Tribe has been working with USEPA, the Indian Health Service (IHS), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD) on the funding and construction of a Hopi Arsenic Mitigation Project (HAMP), a regional water system that has two source wells that meet primary drinking water standards, including arsenic. The HAMP is expected to provide water directly to four Village public water systems on the Hopi Indian Reservation (Shungopavi, Sipaulovi, Mishongnovi, and Polacca) that have arsenic levels above the drinking water standard of 0.010 mg/L. The Hopi Cultural Center is also expected to receive HAMP water through an intertie with the Shungopavi water system.

5. What's the timeline for completing that strategy?

The total cost for the HAMP is approximately \$18 million. To date, USEPA has provided approximately \$6 million in grant funding for the HAMP. IHS has contributed less than \$1 million to the HAMP. The Hopi Tribe is expected to contribute up to \$2 million to the HAMP. The Hopi Tribe will be submitting an application to USDA-RD for the remaining funding, which is expected to be in the form of a loan/grant.

To date, the two HAMP source wells have been drilled and constructed. The pre-planning documents (i.e., Preliminary Engineering Report, Environmental Assessment, Strategic Plan) have been completed and submitted to USDA-RD for initial review. A Hopi Public Utility Authority (HPUA) has been funded by the Hopi Tribal Council and the HPUA will be operating the HAMP. A General Manager for HPUA is expected to be announced by the end of calendar year 2016.

The Hopi Tribe presently plans to have the HAMP in operation by June 2020.

From: PerezSullivan, Margot
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 3:50 PM
To: Albright, David <Albright.David@epa.gov>
Cc: Amato, Paul <Amato.Paul@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Hopi water questions

Hi David, below are the questions from the reporter. I think we could probably answer in writing until she requests an interview. Does that work?

Margot Perez-Sullivan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
D: 415.947.4149
C: 415.412.1115
E: perezsullivan.margot@epa.gov

From: Laurel Morales [<mailto:lmorales@rioradio.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 2:57 PM
To: PerezSullivan, Margot <PerezSullivan.Margot@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Hopi water questions

Thank you for the reminder, Margot. I got pulled into election coverage.

Here are my questions:

Can someone spell out the Safe Drinking Water Act's arsenic standards? And how we came to the current level or standard we have today?

What is the EPA's role in helping the Hopi have save drinking water?

Who is the agency's partner at the tribe? Or who's responsible for doing the sampling and reporting of arsenic levels?

What is the strategy for helping Hopi comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act at more than just the cultural center?

What's the timeline for completing that strategy?

Thank you in advance. I look forward to hearing from you.

Laurel Morales
Senior Field Correspondent, Flagstaff
Fronteras Desk
Phone 928-856-2011
<http://www.fronterasdesk.org/>

On Wed, Oct 19, 2016 at 2:30 PM, PerezSullivan, Margot <PerezSullivan.Margot@epa.gov> wrote:

Hey Laurel, Just wondering if you saw this note from last week. I'm working with about 5 different people and it would be easiest if you could send me some questions if/when you get a chance. Thanks!

Margot Perez-Sullivan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
D: [415.947.4149](tel:415.947.4149)

C: [415.412.1115](tel:415.412.1115)

E: perezsullivan.margot@epa.gov

From: PerezSullivan, Margot
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2016 3:47 PM
To: 'Laurel Morales' <lmorales@rioradio.org>
Subject: RE: Hopi water questions

Hi Laurel, Since I'm working with a few different folks, it will be best if you send your questions so we can identify the appropriate program contact. Thanks!

Margot Perez-Sullivan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
D: [415.947.4149](tel:415.947.4149)

C: [415.412.1115](tel:415.412.1115)

E: perezsullivan.margot@epa.gov

From: Laurel Morales [<mailto:lmorales@rioradio.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2016 1:40 PM
To: PerezSullivan, Margot <PerezSullivan.Margot@epa.gov>
Subject: Hopi water questions

Hi Margot,

I hope this message finds you well. I wonder if you can put me in touch with someone at EPA who has information about helping the Hopi tribe remediate the high levels of arsenic in their drinking water.

Thank you in advance. I look forward to hearing from you.

Laurel Morales

Senior Field Correspondent, Flagstaff

Fronteras Desk

Phone 928-856-2011

<http://www.fronterasdesk.org/>